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SOURCE

Hamburger Echo.

## CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF PHARMACEUTICALS IN GDR

It is reported from Bonn that serious shortages exist in the supply of penicillin and sulfanilamide in the GDR. For weeks, no new allotments of these products have been made to the pharmacies. Similarly, pharmacies receive only 5-10 packages of codeine preparations each month. Insulin is also in short supply and has been available only in hospitals and urban and rural dispensaries. "G-striphantin," digitoxin, and potassium iodate are practically unobtainable.

"Neoteben" and "Rinofon," antitubercular medicines which are produced in the GDR under the name INH, are likewise not in sufficient supply and their quality is poor. Delivery of these particular medicines has declined to 25 percent of the 1952 rate.

Because of a shortage of corn, there is only a small supply of dextrose in powdered form and none at all in liquid form for intravenous injections.

There is also a shortage of spare parts for the repair of X-ray apparatus. The X-ray division of the Surgical Clinic, Leipzig, had to be closed for 6 weeks because no control transformer could be found. Doctors complain that no pure alcohol is available. The sulfide alcohol which has been issued has had only damaging effects.

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